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ABSTRACT

This bibliography presents brief descriptions of 153 books for children and young people. The wide range of topics, formats, and reading levels of the books is intended to complement curriculum content across grade levels. The books are recent publications (most published in 1999 or 2000) that are authoritative references or that exhibit exemplary writing style or design. (SR)

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A Suggested Bibliography of Curriculum Related Books for a Wide Range of Readers and their Reference Needs

New Multi-level Books for Classroom and Curriculum Network on Language, Literacy and Literature Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

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A Suggested Bibliography of Curriculum-Related Books for a Wide Range of Readers and Their Reference Needs

INTRODUCING THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY

This Bibliography differs in expectation of a single focus as in familiar purpose and style. The wide range of topics, format and reading level have the primary feature of providing contextual information to complement curriculum content across grade levels and to illustrate a variety of formats in presentation. It is not intended to be complete or exclusive, but rather a compilation of recent publications that are authoritative references or exhibit exemplary writing style or design.

***Suggested uses*:**

1. ***Group*** titles by subject through levels of picture books to advanced content and use the combined information of illustration and context for collaborative oral or written reports.

2. ***Consider*** the wide range of titles especially to meet the diverse needs of readers within a group working on a single topic.

3. ***Support*** details and relationship to additional reading experiences through critical reading of multi-level selections on a single subject.

4. ***Expand*** understanding and enrich curriculum areas by associating world events and students' personal experiences with selected texts.

5. ***Encourage*** students to link titles as unit themes or curriculum references.

6. ***Select*** examples of texts as models for demonstrating expository or creative writing at all levels.

7. ***Motivate*** students to write books for readers with a lower reading level using a selected book as an initial model.

8. ***Share*** the purpose of multi-level listing with the school librarian to enlist interest and assistance: i.e., exhibits, author visits, purchases.

9. ***Invite*** Teachers-as-Readers and Parents-as-Readers groups to suggest additional titles and annotations.

10. ***Maintain*** a file of publishers' catalogs and mailings for references and annotations. Student assistance in requesting information and organizing file can be substantive experience at all levels.

New Multi-level Books for Classroom and Curriculum

Adler, David A. (1999). The babe and I. Illustrations by Terry Widener. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., Gulliver Books.

Master biographer -- story writer has given a reader a book with a well-known hero, friendly, real characters, and as historical setting of the 1932 period of economic depression. The high-interest, fast-moving story reveals much of family devotion, social setting, popular sport and endearing hero. The setting is significant in the awareness of historical change of financial status and setting.

Ancona, George. (1999). Charro: The Mexican cowboy. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

Charro is the Mexican term for horseman, much more than a cowboy. He is a skilled rider of horses, bulls and bucking broncos and an artist with a lariat, model of dress and behavior and symbol of the patriotic past. In the rodeo-like festival of la charreria men, women and children show off skill and daring. Abounding in photos, this is a resource of culture and information with high interest available in Spanish.

Andersen, Hans Christian and Lisbeir Zwerger. (1999). The Nightingale. Transl. from the Danish by Anthea Bell. New York: North-South Books.

The hero of this story is a little bird with a very sweet song -- so sweet it brings tears to the eyes of the Chinese Emperor and charms death right back into the graveyard.

Hans Christian Andersen's Nightingale is a miracle in love and generosity and forgiveness, a creature who asks only for the freedom to sing and bring joy to all, emperors and fishermen. This is an elegant interpretation (hardcover and paperback) by Zwerger.

Bachrach, Susan D. and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (1994). Tell them we remember. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

The immediacy of the museum photographs and the clarity of the text and "voice" present a vivid document of history.

In a format which is reader-friendly, the profound content is clear in impact and urgency as a reminder of vigilance as a key to humanity and survival.

Excellent references for the teacher when younger texts are read in the classroom. Photos can be used selectively

Banyai, Istvan. Re-Zoom. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Journey in this book from an Egyptian pyramid to an exotic jungle to a sandy beach. But if you think you know where you are, guess again! In these mysterious landscapes of pictures within pictures, nothing is ever as it seems.

Beil, Karen Magnuson. (1999). Fire in their eyes: Wildfires and the people who fight them. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

This informative text is intriguing in detail of word and photo. The human elements of courage and skill are revealed through actual depiction of the devastating wilderness. The view of the fire as a tool for preservation is significant. Fire is counted as both enemy and friend. Author Beil's research was gathered through interview experience in a jumper class as a member of a burn crew. The book is a timely reference.

Bernhard, Durga. (2000). Earth, sky, wet, dry: A book of nature opposites. New York: Orchard Books.

Both a book of opposites and an ingenious nature study, this eye-opening volume introduces the young reader to the many plants and animals that live in, on and around a single pear tree. Big and small, light seekers and night lovers, hunters and prey, are all portrayed in beautifully detailed pictures and described in fascinating endnotes. It is a guide to the changing spectacle of the natural world. It is a guide to the changing spectacle of the natural world. It can serve well to introduce further research and reading/writing activities.

Bierhorst, John. (2000). The people with five fingers: A native Californian creation tale. Ill. Robert Andrew Parker. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

"What kind of people will they be?" "They will speak different languages," said Coyote.

The animals of the ancient time talk to each other and figure out what to do. With humor and insight they stumble toward the great design, i.e., the gopher brothers make high and low places for people to live. Coyote sends to the moon for a bag of words and a bag of laughter and more.

The reader discovers how creatures to come can live in harmony. Good for reading and listening -- and discussion.

Boghomo, Joel Eboueme. (1999). Madoulina: A story from West Africa. A girl who wanted to go to school. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Eight-year-old Madoulina loves school. She dreams of becoming a doctor. When she cannot go to school because her mother needs her to sell produce and fritters, a caring school teacher solves the problem. She contracts for the fritters to be bought for the school children. Madoulina's mother makes her needed money and Madoulina attends school. This West African story gives a glimpse of the living style, sparse resources and the very real familiar desires of an 8 year old.

Boudalika, Litsa. (1998). If you could be my friend: Letters of Mervet Akram Sha'ban and Galit Fink. First American edition, translated from the French by Alison Landes. New York: Orchard Books.

The letters of Galit, a 12-year-old Israeli girl and 13-year-old Mervet Palestinian girl are secretly carried back and forth and presented here in translation by the documentary film producer who suggested the correspondence as dialogue between two non-communicative peoples. The historical overview and glossary add to the full text. Young adults identify with the teenage correspondents and to the situations which prompted their correspondence itself.

Brown, Marc. (1993). Arthur's new puppy. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co. (1st paperback edition).

Arthur's new puppy causes problems when it tears the living room apart, wets on everything, and refuses to wear a leash.

Another Arthur treat for reading and discussion, eliciting an exchange of experiences for some, and alerting the yet naive with puppies only on a "wish list."

Brown, Marc. (1996). Arthur writes a story. Book and cassette. Read by Marc Brown. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

Even for the independent reader, the listening delight of the author reading his story as he intends the words to tell it, becomes an enriching experience of linking writing to reading. Far the less able reader, the gentle instructions guide the reader's interest and encourage reinforcement of experience with print.

Brown, Laurence Krasny and Marc Brown. (1986). Dinosaurs divorce: A guide for changing families. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

This succinct paperback edition is a readable resource of uncluttered, informational text. The vocabulary and illustrations are authentic examples of the real world of children's changing family structures. The "contents" invited targeted reading, and the glossary of "divorce words and what they mean" are both placed at the beginning of the text. Marc Brown's illustrations tell of serious aspects and situations through his comic brush.

Bruchac, Joseph. (1996). Illustrations by Thomas Locker. Between earth and sky: Legends of native American sacred places. (A Voyager Book). New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

With grace and charm, Abenaki poet and author Bruchac retells 10 Native American legends of awe-inspiring landscapes. These wise stories, with Locker's illuminating paintings, wake the sacred place above, below and within us all.

The author's "about this book" is a succinct thought-provoking essence of the text and illustrations which follow.

Buehner, Caralyn. (September). It's a spoon, not a shovel. Illustrations by Mark Buehner. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Are your manners monstrous or marvelous? Victor Vulture, Crocodilia Jones, and their friends demonstrate the right -- and wrong -- things to say and do in this humorous guide to proper etiquette. With hilarious artwork and many hidden animals to challenge sharp-eyed readers this is a fun and surprising way to learn manners.

Carroll, Lewis, (Ill.) Helen Oxenbury. (1999). Alice's adventures in Wonderland. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

This edition of Alice's adventures in Wonderland is a new experience with an "old" favorite of readers and listeners and too, language enthusiasts. Carroll's text is given a new view with Helen Oxenbury's illustrations in both color and black and white. There is a refreshing experience in reading familiar text and viewing new illustrations. This publication is a real "book experience" with attractive format and design. It is likely to become the book which will introduce Alice to readers of the new century.

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Cherry, Lynne. (1999). The armadillo from Amarillo. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., Voyager Books.

This enchantingly beautiful book, written and illustrated by the author, has won several awards. The conceptual framework of distance from city to solar system, is developed through the central character of the armadillo named Sasparillo who wants to know where on earth he is. The narrative in rhyme is dedicated to Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) whose books "inspired generations of children to love planet earth."

Christopher, Matt. (1999). Long-arm quarterback: A new football team sparks an old rivalry. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

In the most recent Christopher book, 12-year-old Cap Wadell wants to play on a "real" football team, but his middle school in a small Texas farm does not have enough players -- until his grandfather revives interest in the game of six-man football. Cap and Jimmy's grandfathers reignite an old football feud when the two boys are contenders for the quarterback position. This is a high-interest chapter book for sports stories and Matt Christopher is familiar to young readers. This one is suggested to spark a "What would you do?" discussion.

Christopher, Matt. (1999). In the huddle with John Elway. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

In the chronological style of several Christopher biographies, this exciting story of a champion quarterback reveals the "ups and downs and side-trips" of the famous player as a superstar athlete.

The Christopher biographies are recommended as high-interest, reader friendly format for both genre study -- and motivation.

Christopher, Matt. (1999). On the ice with Tara Lipinski. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

The youngest top-ranked skater in the world is seen in a close-up look by the top sports writer for young readers. The chapters are given as dated periods, with annual entrees from 1984-1997/1998-1999.

A brief 110 pp. with photos presents an appealing portrait.

Cooney, Barbara. (1999). Eleanor. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc. Puffin paperback edition.

Barbara Cooney's Caldicott-medal winner is another in her meticulously researched, lushly detailed books. This picture of Eleanor Roosevelt's childhood world captures the essence of the little girl whose indomitable spirit would make her one of the greatest and most beloved first ladies of all time. There is a special appeal which invites rereading. The afterword is a satisfying step in a reader's wonder about his little girl who becomes a familiar literary friend.

Cowley, Joy. (1999). The video shop sparrow. Ill. by Gavin Bishop. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

The rescue of a tiny sparrow which is trapped in a video store presents a challenge and a problem to George and Harry. The caring boys in desperation, contact the mayor who solves their problem. The sparrow survives, and the story's emphasis on caring is a fine discussion starter which can extend to environment, conversation, home loss, and home/family/friends.

Dahl, Roald. (1999). Tales of childhood. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

In Boy, Roald Dahl recounts his childhood growing up in England. From his years as a prankster at boarding school to his envious position as a chocolate tester for Cadbury's, Roald Dahl's youth was as full of excitement and the unexpected as are his world-famous, best-selling books. Packed with anecdotes -- some funny, some painful, all interesting -- this is a book that's sure to please.

Whether reading Boy first and then Roald Dahl's books, or reading Boy when the author's works are familiar favorites, the volume is a delightful reflection of childhood experiences which have appeared in his writings.

This new edition is a refreshing addition to current highlights.

Dahl, Roald. (1999). Going solo. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

The fascinating story of Roald Dahl's life continues in Going Solo. As a pilot in WWII, Dahl had some wonderfully exciting -- and frighteningly near-death -- experiences, including encounters with the enemy, battles with deadly snakes and incredible dogfights. Told with the same irresistible appeal that has made Dahl one of the world's best-loved writers, Going Solo brings you directly into the action and into the mind of this brilliant man. These superb stories, daring deeds and fantastic adventures should pique the interest of the teenage reader.

deBeer, Hans. (1999). Little polar bear. New York: North-South Books.

This first book in the popular series offers the appeal of the board-book edition. Lars, the little polar bear who is swept away from the safety of his home at the North Pole introduces the reader to the contrasting adventure in the tropical region.

Ahoy There, Little Polar Bear is the second book in the series, offering another adventure of little polar bear's being swept up in a fishing net to further adventures far from the North Pole.

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Dee, Catherine. (1997). The girls' guide to life: How to take charge of the issues that affect you. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

The author describes this book as "a book I could have used when I was a teenager." In three major divisions -- personal life, at school, our society -- with photos, graphics, quotes from famous women, practical, timely examples with "things to do" as realistic guidance, this volume is a useful "guide" for a teenage girl. It presents situations openly and accepts the examples as a "norm" with unthreatening frankness and suggestions. Young readers can feel that their questions are the similar queries of others their age.

Demas, Corinne. (2000). Hurricane! Ill. by Lenice O. Stohmeier. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

Details of preparation for the coming Hurricane Bob are the work of everyone in the family. As the sky darkens and the wind grows wild, the family waits- concerned about the wild animals and the house itself.

The real Hurricane Bob, August 1991, provides the inspiration for this you are-there account. Straightforward descriptions of before, during and after are highlighted by the illustrations that convey both information and reassurance about these storms.

This is a book to keep available across grades, from reading to independent references for sciences or daily experience.

A good companion to A Day in Maine by Robert McCluskey, a classic of earlier years.

Dennan, Cherry. (1999). Make your own adventure story. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

This delightful, inviting "kit" type folder contains everything the reader needs to make a personal book: font-out stickers, real blank book, giant poster plan, A-Z and picture stencil. Dennan addresses the comments on the "folder" directly to the reader/author. A creative work inviting creative response. Others in the series: Fairy Tale, Space Story, Spooky Story.

Dillon, Leo and Diane. (1998). To everything there is a season: Verses from Ecclesiastes. New York: Scholastic, The Blue Sky Press.

Artists Leo and Diane Dillon have illustrated selected passages from the Book of Ecclesiastes which has been a source of faith, hope and inspiration for generations of people throughout the world. The Dillons have created common threads as well as cultural differences in their illustrations.

From the introduction by the Dillons: To Everything There is a Season presents famous works as celebrations of the seasons of human existence -- the ebb and flow of happiness and pain. There is a time and purpose to our lives and the world around us.

This is a book for all seasons--and all teachers and their students. Children have their world of "seasons" within the larger context. "Natural" seasons are part of curriculum. Seasons of feelings are introduced with elegance.

Dodds, Dayle Ann. (1999). The great divide. Ill. by Tracy Mitchell. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

In this delightful rhymed text, 80 people begin to race in the Great Divide, but each new challenge divides the number of racers in half. The pesky math problem is solved in a pleasurable reading adventure. The text and illustrations invite creative writing explanations of their math problems.

Engel, Diane. (1999). Circle song. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

The author has written and illustrated an appealing, melodic text in rhyme which embraces a world of spheres. The text is based on the moments when "daylight turns to night," and told through a baby's experience of nighttime ritual.

In addition to being a smooth listening/reading experience, this book is suggested as a model for creative writing -- in prose or poetry -- because of its single focus and succinct text, familiar vocabulary and through author's illustrations sensitive, imaginative metaphor.

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. (1999). The letters are lost. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Once upon a time, all of the letters of the alphabet were together. But now they're lost! One showed up in the Bath. There was one under a Hat, another one on a Quilt, and even one in the Sandbox. Where are the rest? Readers will delight in finding out in this vibrant, charming introduction to the alphabet.

This introduction to the alphabet offers appeal and generous opportunity for vocabulary enrichment to young ESL readers.

Facklam, Margery. (1996). Creepy, crawly, caterpillars. Illustrations by Paul Facklam. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co. (first paperback edition).

Backyard caterpillars have been elevated to new heights of distinction by this non fiction writer of informational books for children. Explicit illustrations by her son, contribute to the precise facts which in clear text present authentic researched information. The author of the Big Bug Book has added to the classroom library for both student and teacher use

Falda, Dominique. (1999). The treasure chest. New York: North-South Books.

The squirrel's treasure chest, unlike the animals' conclusion of riches of gold, contains seeds, nuts and honey which he made into a cake to share with everyone.

Squirrel acknowledges his wealth. "I am rich but only because I have all of you for friends."

Excellent story/reading for friendship unit.

Farrell, John. (1999). It's just a game! Ill. John Emil Cymerman. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

When kids in a neighborhood sports team practice a lot, learn, have fun, they discover that with the first game not everyone is playing for fun. Coaches and parents yell, kids cry, winning is everything. Farrell makes his point and the boys remind the grown-ups that learning, trying your hardest, practicing good sportsmanship -- and having fun are more important than winning vs. losing. Good reading -- good discussion starter.

Feelings, Tom. (1999). Soul looks back in wonder. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

This is indeed a compelling collection of words and pictures, with the voices of 13 major poets rising in response to the strikingly vivid vistas and emotionally targeted portraits of award-winning artist Tom Feelings. The moving collaboration of poet and artist celebrates the sustaining spirit of African creativity.

Fleischman, Sid. (1988). By the great horn spoon. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co. (Republished, 1963 copyright).

The adventures of Jack Flagg and his butler Praiseworthy, as they stow away in potato barrels on a ship bound from Boston to the California gold fields becomes a complement to the history curriculum of the 1849 California gold rush.

Black/white illustrations by Eric von Schmidt.

Fraser, Mary Ann. (1999). One giant leap. New York: Henry Holt. (first paperback edition).

Written and illustrated by the author. The author presents selected details of the historic episode of the first lunar landing. The book includes glossary, flight profile, space suit labeled illustration, uncluttered, informative text is a welcome volume of information for a wide range of readers -- including adults.

Fraser, MaryAnn. (1999). Vicksburg: The battle that won the Civil War. New York, Henry Holt & Co.

Through the words of generals and soldiers, men and women, children and adults, the readers witness the action in the crucial battle that many historians think decided the Civil War. More than 30 primary source quotations, 40 pictures drawn at the time and five maps, the reader goes inside the camps of the Blue and the Gray. The city was protected by high cliffs and cannons, but General Ulysses S. Grant was the one Union leader up to the challenge of taking the city that guarded the Mississippi river, the lifeblood of the Confederacy. Includes Notes, Glossary, and References. (Bibliography).

Fritz, Jean. (1999). You want women to vote, Lizzie Stanton? Illustrations by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

"Who says women shouldn't speak in public? And why can't they vote?" These are questions Elizabeth Cady Stanton grew up asking herself. Her father believed that girls didn't count as much as boys, and her own husband once got so embarrassed when she spoke up at a convention that he left town. Luckily, Lizzie wasn't one to let society stop her from fighting for equality for everyone.

A generous index and useful bibliography add to the fascinating depiction of historical experience. This Jean Fritz biographical portrait offers high interest reading to integrate with a social studies curriculum.

Gibbons, Gail. (1993). Pirates: Robbers of the high seas. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, & Co. (paperback edition).

Author-illustrated Gail Gibbons offers another of her more than 80 informational books for children. Turning facts into entertainment, Pirates describes in simple text, the lives of pirates, the ships they sailed and the type of treasure they stole. The "glossary" type section gives illustrated sketches of famous pirates, adding to the information, the credulity, the interest of the text.

Gibbons, Gail. (1992). Recycle! A handbook for kids. Boston, MA: Little Brown & Co. (first paperback edition).

The process of recycling from start to finish is explained and illustrated through clear graphic drawing. The behind-the-scenes look at the recycling of garbage into new products, and the helpful tips on ways to help clean up the environment make this handbook useful to adults as well as "kids."

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Gibbons, Gail. (1999). Exploring the deep dark sea. Illustrations by the author). Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

This most recent nonfiction work of Gail Gibbons is an underwater exploration guide to the depths of the oceans. The text is a resource of intriguing facts and colorful illustrations examining the history and science of diving, the different ocean zones and the future of undersea research. Gail Gibbons takes the reader on a voyage of exploration and discovery and she shares the discoveries which are thoroughly researched. The illustrated glossary gives a chronological overview of diving history, including a glimpse of the future, with deep flight currently in development to "fly" to the deepest part of the oceans.

Golden Books. (1998). Totally amazing series: Mummies, rain forests, sea creatures, spiders. New York: Golden Books.

Within a format of 32 pages, including an index-glossary, "amazing" facts are presented in a lively style. Drawing, photographs, activities addressed to the reader give detailed information which could be useful (and interesting) to all readers. Publisher suggests ages 7-11.

Golden Books. (1998). Sharks, insects, dinosaurs, snakes. New York: Golden Books Publishing Co.

This series created by Two-Can for Golden Books. Each book of 24 pages offers a remarkable resource of information presented in a variety of formats -- colorful presentations of facts -- a variety of illustrations support highlighted text.

These books provide excellent information for teachers as well as student readers of all ages. (Activities and the inclusion of humor add appeal for a reluctant reader.) Recommended for ages 4-7

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. (1999). Journeys with Elijah: Eight tales of the prophet. Paintings by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., Gulliver Books.

In this illuminating collection of eight tales, Goldin introduces readers to the ancient prophet who had touched the lives of people from religious traditions all over the world. The dazzling Pinkney paintings lead the reader to the heart of Elijah's journeys to a place where goodness and truth prevail. One never knows where or how Elijah will appear: weathered traveler, shivering peddler, Argentina cornfield, China, amid Persian ruins. She brings hope to those in need. Her words work miracles. This is fine literature and universal theme for reading and discussion.

Goodall, Jose. (1999). Dr. White. Illustrations by Julie Litty. New York: North South Books.

Based on actual events at a London Hospital, this enchanting story will encourage readers of all ages, reminding them of the healing power of love. The restoration of Dr. White to the hospital staff where he worked his "magic" on critically ill children with unusual methods which prompted his dismissal, heralds the growing recognition and practice of pet therapy in a healing process.

Greenberg, David T. (1999). Whatever happened to Humpty Dumpty? And other surprising sequels to Mother Goose rhymes. Illustrations by S.D. Schindler. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

In a collection of 20 riotous verses, David Greenberg answers questions about Humpty Dumpty, Miss Muffet's flight from her tuffet, the fare of Jack and Jill after their tumble -- and more favorite Mother Goose characters. Greenberg's additions of his wicked twists are a delight for readers of all ages. The illustrations enhance the text with humor and absurdity. A unique volume!

Greene, Bette. (1999). Summer of my german soldier. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc. Puffin Paperback edition.

When her small Arkansas town becomes the site of a camp housing WWII German prisoners, 12-year-old Patty Bergan, a Jewish girl, finds herself forming a friendship with Anton, a lonely, frightened young escapee who seems to understand her feelings better than anyone else does, despite the fact that he's from Nazi Germany. This is a thoughtful, moving and hard-hitting book which has become a modern classic.

Greene, Stephanie. (2000). Not just another moose. Ill. Andrea Wallace. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This is a warm and witty story that will leave the reader laughing! With the humor of the moose who loses his antlers and becomes an artist -- a cook -- and waits for antlers to grow back. This is really a "fun" reading and in a serious vein, tells the reader one has several traits and does not depend upon "antlers" only for distinction.

Hague, Michael. (1999). Aesop's fables. Selected and illustrated. 1985. New York: Henry Holt & Co. First Owlet edition.

Thirteen of Aesop's famous fables are illustrated by Michael Hague who has illustrated 19 classic books for children, including several of his authorship. The brief, one-page text for each fable is faced with the Hague illustration. The "moral" of each is printed in italics, an excellent highlight for a younger reader.

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Hague, Kathleen. (1999). Alphabears: An ABC book. Ill. by Michael Hague. New York: Henry Holt & Co. First Board Book (1984 Hardcover).

A bear from Amanda to Zak introduces each letter of the alphabet. The bears are described with special qualities in rhyme.

The text and illustrations of the original hardcover edition are sustained in the board book format. The Hague editions are a read-to and reading quality text.

Hague, Kathleen. (1999). Numbears: A counting book. Ill. by Michael Hague. New York: Henry Holt & Co. First Board Book edition. (1986 hardcover).

A group of bears engaged in a variety of activities introduce numbers one through 12.

The full texts and Hague illustrations give this board book edition, the picture/text quality of the hardcover edition in the appealing and manageable format

Hänel, Wolfram. (1999). Rescue at sea! Illustrations by Ulrike Heyne. New York: North-South Books.

When a fishing boat is caught in a storm off the coast, and Paul's father with other villagers launch the lifeboat in a desperate rescue of the sailors, Paul spots a dog stranded on the wreck of the fishing boat. Paul saves the dog and proves himself worthy to own the dog he has wanted desperately for so long.

This is a chapter book for early, eager readers.

Hänel, Wolfram. (1999). Mary and the mystery dog. Illustrations by Kirsten Höcker. (Transl.) J. Alison James.

When Mary's parents choose to relax inside the beach house by the fire during a week at the beach in blustery March, she sets off to explore the beach on her own. The appearance of the shaggy Mystery Dog, the lovely dog living in a hut behind the dunes, begins lively adventure in the quiet winter break. The Mystery Dog is real! His appeal grasps the reader's interest.

Hänel, Wolfram. (1999). Old Mahony and the bear family. Pictures by Jean-Pierre Corderoc'h. New York: North-South Books.

Beginning readers will relish the humorous high jinks in this sequel to The Old Man and the Bear.

These books of high interest for young readers sense strong positive experiences in the early stages of independent reading.

Harcourt Brace Children's Books. (1999). I want to be ...", an astronaut, a chef, a veterinarian, a dancer, an engineer.

With informational text from professionals colorful photos complete with descriptive text and references for further information, the "I want to be" series is a generous resource of timely, authentic and high-interest reading. The many options of opportunity and the exploratory inquiry of the reader are described and satisfied in these fine volumes.

Harris, Robie H., (1999). It's so amazing! Ill. by Michael Emberley. A book about eggs, sperm, birth, babies and families.

This book provides the fascinating answers to questions about babies, reproduction, sex and sexuality – and the answers are accurate, fun, comic-book style artwork, and a clear, lively text that reflects an elementary school child's interest in science and how things work. A curious bird and a squeamish bee help tell the amazing story of how a baby is made from the moment an egg and sperm join through birth.

It's So Amazing! also addresses related topics of love and sex, gender sexual abuse and more -- in age-appropriate ways -- while giving children a healthy understanding of their bodies.

This is an excellent resource for sex education for young children which will be discovered by older children who have their questions.

Harrison, David. (1999). Wild country: Outdoor poems for young people. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Here is a journey in verse which captures the grandness, mystery and beauty of nature as the poet's words make the land and animals come alive. Harrison's love for both places and creatures, as the essence of his life's experiences, are the core of his poems, the expressed form. This book, pure text, reader-friendly with space and print, invites the reader's personal images. This is a special feature for today's reader at any age

Heller, Ruth. (1999). Color (Includes 5 transparent pages) New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

With vibrant colors and transparent overlays, young (and not so young) readers see the world of color printing from pencils, markers and paints used to create art. Dots of primary colors reveal the printer's use to print the art. Peeling away the transparent overlays brings discovery of how primary colors are mixed and how a full-color printing breaks down into primary colors. This vivid, "choice book" is another in the Ruth Heller style of design which is deceptively directed to young readers. The older reader will find clarification of art education expectations.

Heller, Ruth. (1999). Mine, all mine: A book about pronouns. Ruth Heller's world of language. New York's Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Each book in Ruth Heller's World of Language is a sound resource of practical information presented in her unique style of rhyme and colorful illustration. This addition to the series shows how playful language can be for young readers who will find the older reader clarifying persisting language dilemmas.

Heller, Ruth. (1999). The reason for a flower. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

The reason for a flower is to manufacture seeds, but Ruth Heller shares a lot more about parts of plants and their functions in her trademark rhythmic style. "(An) extravagantly beautiful creation. It is unusual in its ingenious way of teaching botany and interesting words to the littlest of readers." -- Publishers Weekly.

Another "World of Nature" gift from Ruth Heller!

The facts in vocabulary and illustration become a learning experience to initiate, complement or enrich the science curriculum.

Heller, Ruth. (1999). Plants that never ever bloom. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Rich, colorful illustrations and informative rhyming verse unlock a world where mushrooms glow at night and seaweed grows to be gigantic -- without a flower in sight!

The aesthetic perspective to learning is a singular experience for all ages.

Hendra, Sue. (Ill.) (1999). Numbers: A flip and find book. Series concept and design by Louise Jackson. Words by Paul Harrison and Louise Jackson. Wildlife consultant, Martin Jenkins. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

This is an interactive learning book designed for a young reader but appealing for use with learners with special needs of math or language. Animal facts are authentic. Manipulative approach offers vocabulary enrichment as well as correct answers to focus questions. Companion book: Opposites

High, Linda Oatman. (1999). Barn savers. Ill. by Ted Lewin. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Barn Savers is a story which quietly celebrates something beautiful and something old as a father and son bring down a barn with hard work and respect. The barn savers take care to save everything to be used and recycled to new barns and new houses. So the old barn will never be gone.

Hiscock, Bruce. (1999). The big tree. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

In 1775, a small seed sprouted in a dark forest. Now that sprout is an extraordinary sugar maple tree. Time and people have changed over the past 200 years, but the tree goes on, silently providing shade and shelter, a living link with the past. Intertwining botany and history, the author tells not only of the tree and its growth, but also the lives of the people and animals who lived near the ancient maple. Readers and listeners of all ages will share a sense of awe and wonder -- and understanding of the natural world.

Hollyer, Beatrice. (1999). Wake up world! A day in the life of children around the world. Introduction by Tony Robinson. New York: Henry Holt & Co. in association with Oxfam.

Through this vivid photographic album, the reader explores the lives of eight children from around the world. This exciting picture book is an introduction to world cultures, and packed with information, helps young readers find out how children live in different parts of the world. A percentage of royalties goes to Oxfam, a charity, helping world's poorest people to build a good life.

Hubbell, Patricia. (2000). Earthmates. Ill. by Jean Cassels. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Corp.

Lyrical descriptions create vivid images of the various animals and the brilliantly colored paintings capture the earthmates in their glory, lion yawning, wild turkeys strutting, fireflies glittering and many more. This book of poems and paintings invites reading silently or aloud. There is a sense of quiet discovery in reading to oneself, and a shared revelation of "ordinary" animals through reading aloud. Varied format of print complements and creates the poetic flow and mood of each poem.

Johnson, Stephen T. (1999). Alphabet city. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

This 1996 Caldicott Honor Book, in a Puffin edition, offers the appealing, unique, wordless alphabet book to all ages. The author has captured each letter of the alphabet as it occurs naturally in city surroundings from the A of a seahorse to the Z of a tenement fire escape; readers will look at the city in a whole new way. Excellent art resource.

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Johnson, Charles, Patricia Smith and WGBH Series Research Team. (1998). Africans in America: America's journey through slavery. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., A Harvest Book.

This companion to the PBS series is a riveting narrative history of America from the Jamestown landing in 1607 to the brink of the Civil War. The book tells the shared history of Africans and Europeans as seen through the lens of slavery. Thoroughly researched, the book weaves together the experiences of colonists, slaves, free and fugitive blacks and abolitionists to present, a startling and moving drama of the effects of slavery and racism on our conflicted national identity.

With or without viewing the PBS series, Africans in America is a singular reading experience and provides excellent glimpses of history to highlight a related lesson.

Johnson, Dolores. (1999). My mom is my show-and-tell. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Corp.

The familiar show-and-tell in the elementary classroom has a reassuring humor as David gives his mother advice on what she should not do in class. His warning about her jokes and calling him Pumpkin are faded by her enchanting ways and gentle teasing. When David introduces his mother to the class, the readers will be confident that his mother "the best teacher and the best mother" will give a fine presentation of her career as a teacher.

Kalman, Esther. (1995). Tchaikovsky discovers America. Ill. by Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson.

Tchaikovsky sailed to America in 1891 for the opening of Andrew Carnegie's new music hall -- just two years before his death. He kept a detailed diary, commenting on 13-story skyscrapers, passenger trains and Niagara Falls. Added to this, a fictional diary of an 11-year-old girl and a kindred spirit who loves music and ballet as much as Tchaikovsky. Young readers will have treasured memories of a sorrowful man who gave the world some of the most beautiful music ever written.

Katz, Karen. (1999). The colors of us. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.

This exploration of a familiar world seen in new ways celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people. Lena paints pictures that are "delicious!"

Keller, Laurie. (1998). The scrambled states of America. New York: Henry Holt.

In this first book by a creative author, an imaginative, amusing idea has been developed into a unique, informative and truly beguiling "read." Keller has produced through original format, text and humor, a resource of fact and geography. Surely, this book is for all ages of readers who will learn, review or be refreshed by this delightful lesson. It well deserves the award "Pick of the Lists" (American Bookseller).

Ketcham, Sallie. (1999). Bach's big adventure. Illustrations by Timothy Bush. New York: Orchard.

This very human portrait of the talented arrogant prodigy, the most talented of the accomplished family of musicians, reveals his sensitive appreciation of true greatness when he hears the sound of Adam Reincken, the "greatest organist of Germany and the world." Sebastian Bach, as a young boy, presents a prophetic view of one who was grown up to be history's most celebrated baroque composer. The illustrations of lively water colors enrich the text.

Ketchum, Liza. (1996). The gold rush: Companion volume to the public television series The West. Introduction by Stephen Ives and Ken Burns. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

The Gold Rush is one of three companion volumes for young readers to the TV documentary, The West. The stories of real people who lived during that time and illustrated with more than 100 period photos, each book is entertaining and informative, a tribute to a most important period in history.

The tiny gold nugget discovered on January 24, 1848, changed the history of the West forever. The compelling story of those who ventured forth for the expectancy of the promise of a better life. This resource is a literary history for a wide range of readers.

Laukel, Hans Gerold. (1996). The desert fox family book. (Transl.) Rosemary Lanning. New York: North-South Books.

In this photo essay, readers watch the four cubs grow, play and learn to hunt. The nocturnal animals are highlighted in the color photographs and informal factual text.

This is one of the Animal Family Series, studied and researched and beautifully designed. The book introduces desert fox, or fennec mother and young at rest and at play, hunting and eating in their harsh yet beautiful desert world.

An "outstanding science trade book for children." National Science Teachers Association.

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Lawson, Robert. (1988). Ben and me: An astonishing life of Benjamin Franklin as written by his good mouse Amos. Discovered, edited and illustrated by Robert Lawson, 1939. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

The story of Benjamin Franklin, the famous inventor is told by a mouse who was supposed to have given Franklin his ideas. This classic American story has been read by generations who never forget Amos, and too through him, Benjamin Franklin.

This is recommended for biographical reading, integrated with history/social studies curriculum.

Lee, Cynthia Chin. (1997). A is for Asia. Ill. by Yumi Heo. New York: Orchard Books.

Asia is home to more than half the people of the world and birthplace to some of the greatest cultures. From camel races in Saudi Arabia to sled races in Siberia, from the Vietnamese children's game, "Bite the Carp's Tail" to the Hindu festival of "Holi;" this innovative alphabet book chronicles the events, foods, animals, crafts and traditions that make Asia as a continent special, and each Asian country unique. Illustrations are whimsical and create a panorama of culture and intriguing design.

Lourie, Peter. (1999). Lost treasure of the Inca.

The Inca crafted many of the world's most beautiful objects including golden masks, plates, vases and jewelry. Peter Lourie's account of his search for lost gold draws readers into the mysterious realm of the Inca. This climb up the mountains of Ecuador brings adventure and history beyond the treasure of gold. Generous photos chronicle the expedition and its findings.

Luckie, William K. & Wood Smethurst. (1998). Study power: Study skills to improve your learning and your grades. Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books.

The authors address the student in introducing this useful volume: "School success primarily comes from the ability and desire to manage work and time effectively. The techniques described will help manage time in every aspect of study." The text is based on study skills taught at Harvard and Emary. Effective use from elementary to graduate levels. The format is clear and contributes to easy reference and topical use. Study Power Workbook available (1999-2000). The authors elaborate on input skills, process skills, and output skills. Detailed explanations and application of skills. Excellent resource.

Macy, Sue & Jane Gottesman. (Ed.). (1999). Play like a girl: A celebration of women in sports. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

This lavish visual and verbal celebration of the joy, the dedication, the triumphs of today's female athletes is the work of editors who have selected text from photographs and writings about women in sports.

Play like a girl, historically a description of weakness, is heralded for girls' excellence in sports. This is not for girls only!

Mark, Jan. (1999). The Midas touch. Ill. Juan Wijngaard. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

When good Kind Midas was offered anything he desires by Dionysus, he rashly requested that everything he touched would turn to gold. Midas soon realizes that he made a horrible mistake! The food, wine and all golden world become torture and King Midas appealed to Dionysus for relief. For his past kindness, King Midas was rewarded and the spell was broken, with the world returning to normal. Only the sands of the River Pactolus were golden forever more after the river washed away the spell.

The author's brilliant retelling and the striking pictures and intricate mosaic patterns combine to create a book of elegance equal to the venerable tale.

Mayhew, James. (1999). Katie meets the impressionists. New York: Orchard.

The imaginative and creative introduction to museum masterpieces is filled with wonder, splendor and whimsy. Katie actually steps into the world of Monet, Renoir and Degas, smells the flowers which she gathers for her grandmother, and from one episode to another explores the paintings of the master impressionists.

The reality of the artists' paintings, as "Impressionists" emerges as a unique learning experience.

Maynard, Christopher (1999). The history news: Revolution. Consultant: Dr. Tim Shakesby. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

The History News brings the world's greatest stories of the struggle for justice and freedom. This is another in the series which individual "issues" of History News highlights Aztec, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Stone Age, etc., periods.

The revolution highlights origin and creation of the Colonies, the first U.S. President, and includes, among other revolutions, the wall coming down in Berlin. This is a unique and information-filled volume. History is illustrated, highlighted in content and format and reader-friendly. Reluctant readers should discuss the pleasures -- and benefits -- of reading. The refreshment and abundant information are enchanting

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McCloskey, R. (1999). Make way for ducklings. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

This classic tale of the famous Mallard ducks of Boston is available for the first time in a full-sized paperback edition. Awarded the Caldicott Medal in 1941, Make Way for Ducklings has been described as "one of the merriest pictures books ever" (The New York Times). Ideas for reading aloud, this book deserves a place of honor on every child's bookshelf.

Robert McCloskey has added to the fame of Boston where the eight little ducklings have been recognized publicly for all generations.

This is a welcome edition.

McDonald, Megan. (1998). Beezy at bat. Ill. by Nancy Paydar. New York: Orchard Books.

Three new stories of Beezy and her friends in this third book of the easy-reader series. Stories of fun in familiar settings including a big baseball game provides reading appeal and humor.

Medina, Jane. (1999). My name is Jorge: On both sides of the river. Ill. by Fabricio Vanden Broeck. Poems in English and Spanish. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, Wordsong.

Told from the point of view of Jorge, Jane Medina's moving poems vividly depict one boy's struggle to make a new life in a new country. He wants to fit in school but he doesn't want to gorget his homeland, Mexico. His family is doing things like the old country but Jorge wants to find out everything he can afford the new country -- on the other side of the river. The dual language and text offers the reader a fine experience to learn a new language through poetry and familiar experiences.

Medina, Jane. (1999). My name is Jorge: On both sides of the river. Poems in English and Spanish. Ill. by Fabricio Vanden Broeck. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, Wordsong.

The book of poems explores the struggles of a boy from Mexico attending school in the U.S. Jorge is trying to learn the ways to fit in at school but doesn't want to forget is homeland, Mexico. His family still does things as if they were in the old country that Jorge wants to find out everything about the new country -- on the other side of the river. The new challenges include learning a new language, getting a library card, taking tests, making friends, Jorge finds a friend in Tim. Both in format with both languages, and context of timely, vivid verse, make this a particularly appropriate volume for network classrooms at several levels.

Meigs, Cornelia. (1968). Invincible Louisa: The story of the author of Little Women Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

This winner of the Newberry Medal presents a biography of Louisa May Alcott and reveals how Little Women was actually based on her real-life family -- her mother, father and three sisters. Louisa used herself as the model for Jo, the high spirited and outspoken tomboy who is determined to become a writer. This is suggested as reading for biography, and also as introduction to reading Alcott books. The link to personal writing is clearly suggested in this prize-winning book.

Miccucci, Charles. (1992). The life and times of the apple. New York: Orchard Books.

This book yields a bountiful harvest of fresh information about an uncommonly fascinating common fruit. This appealing presentation of apple lore skillfully surveys life cycle, growing practices and history. Lively, timely and entertaining facts about apples abound in a clear, concise, text accompanied by more than 100 finely detailed full-color illustrations, captioned and labeled.

The young apple enters to ask many questions; here are answers. Older readers and adults will find unexpected interest and several curriculum-related areas of science and social studies that a myriad of subjects for writing activities.

Michelson, Richard. (1999). Grandpa's gamble. Illustrations by Barry Moser. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This story, told in the author's voice, is, in an uncluttered style, the clear glimpse of history of the tide of immigration early in the 19th century, from Eastern Europe to the U.S. and "home" on the lower East Side of New York City.

As Grandpa Sam's story unfolds, he is transformed from a "boring" Grandpa into a respected, and one might infer, revered grandfather. His prayer for observance becomes meaningful to the brother and sister, his grandchildren, through whom the book's most moving story and poignant illustrations are presented. The most important wager, from gambling to survive, to a change of his way of life, offers a context for a learning and provocative experience for the reader.

The multi-cultural resource is also appropriately related to the curriculum strand of immigration study.

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Morgan, Roland. (1999). In the next three seconds: Predictions for the millennium. Ill. by Rod and Kira Josey. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc. Puffin Paperback edition.

This intriguing information-packed collection is entertaining, humorous and startling. Thought-provoking forecasts about wildlife, the environment, population and planet earth are illustrated with wit and humor. From the next three seconds to the next three million years is a lively jaunt forward in time which challenges the intellect and imagination.

Morpurgo, Michael. (1999). Joan of Arc 'of Domrémy'. Illustrations by Michael Foreman. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

This is a deftly woven tale of historical fact and fiction. Joan of Arc is brought to life for the reader nearly 600 years after her tragic death. This dramatically illustrated text, the moving story of an extraordinary life will haunt, inspire and utterly captivate readers. Also, by this "team": Robin of Sherwood and Arthur, High King of Britain.

Most, Bernard. (1999). Catch me if you can. (A Green Light Reader for the new reader whose ready to go.) New York: Harcourt, Bruce & Co.

Especially for new readers, appealing titles at levels, K-1 (5-7 yrs.) and 1-2, reading with help, 6-8 yrs.), Green Light Readers incorporate characteristics of reading recovery model.

With the popular dinosaur character, Most has added to the appealing collection. Conversational pattern, clear delightful illustrations, and pattern of approximately 5-10 words per page, add to the accessibility of a volume for beginning reading.

Other Titles:

Baker, Keith. Sometimes.

Crews, Donald. Cloudy Day, Sunny Day.

Keller, Holly. What I see.

Most, Bernard. (1999). Four and twenty dinosaurs. Voyager Edition. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

With fun-loving dinosaurs in the world of Mother Goose, most offers unforgettable antics in colorful illustrations. Twenty-four dinosaurs and as many nursing rhymes provide appealing context for an early reader.

Other Voyagers:

Allen, Jonaham. (1996). Chicken Licken. (Flap book).

Bell, Martin, Jr. (1999). Fire! Fire! Said Mrs. McGuire. Illustrations by Richard Egielski. The old rhyme in new version, turns out to be the smoke from the candles on a birthday cake.

McDermott, Gerald. (1994). Coyote. A trickster tale from the American Southwest. Award-winning, read-aloud comic art, lively tale.

Bruchac, Joseph. (1996) Between Earth and Sky.

Muller, Eric. (1999). While you're waiting for the food to come. Experiments and tricks that can be done at a restaurant, the dining room table, or wherever food is served. New York: Orchard Books.

Here is a unique book which, with its singular appeal, actually can be incorporated into science curriculum in the senses, gravity and water. It is a reluctant reader's selection for independent reading. The author has researched a wide scope of activities and produces a generous compendium of "humor-with-a-purpose." The illustrations by Eldon Doty complement the text, and the format provides further ease to reading the text.

Murphy, Pat, Ellen Klages, Pearl Tesler, Linda Shore and the Exploratorium. (1999). The brain explorer: Puzzles, riddles, illusions, and other mental adventures. An adventure into the unknown world of your mind. Ill. by Jason Gorski. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

This book is an ideal example of the unique offerings of the Exploratorium, San Francisco's world famous museum of science, art, and human perception, and a center of learning, creativity and fun. The science-at-home team in a journey through "the mind"--experiments, puzzles, riddles, tricks for games, optical illusions. Unique format of graphics and print, illustrations and clear, fascinating instructions. This is both a book for a challenged young mental wizard (recommended 9-12), a teacher for class activity, and/or science/math.

Newsome, Effie Lee. (1999). Wonders: The best loved poems. Compiled with introduction by Rudine Sims Bishop. Ill . by Lois Mailow Jones. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, Wordsong.

Newsome was the first African-American poet whose work consisted primarily for poems for children. The Poet's deep affection for nature is seen in these Wonders dating from 1920s and 30s and long out of print. With Bishop's introduction and Jones' elegant drawings, Wonders offers children the chance to discover a gifted poet whose work continues to enchant.

Nielson, Virginia. (1999). Battie Hattie. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

Having to change schools in the middle of 6th grade, move to a small town in another state, live with an uncle while her mother, traveling with a band as a clarinetist, "deserted" her, Harriet faced the worst time of her life! Uncle Mike, a scientist, worked with bats. While being teased by schoolmates about the bats and earning the name "Battie Hattie," it was the discovery and bonding with a deserted bat which, through her caring, helps her to understand her mother.

Two special features about this book:

1.the growing awareness of human nature and;

2.the fascinating truth about hats, one of the world's most misunderstood creatures.

Okutoro, Lydia Omolola. (1999). Quiet storm: Voices of young black poets. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

A selection of young poets' inspired lines reflects their exposure to the recognized Black poets and responsively "returning to their roots," while sharing the American experiences of school and society.

Okutoro refers to the expanded use of "Diaspora" as an indication of cultures of African-descended people who can be found in almost all the countries of the world -- anywhere the African peoples make their home. Special feature: identification of all the poets whose work is included. The poems are from high school years. Themed sections introduced by poems of recognized poets.

Opie, Iona (ed.) (1999). Here comes Mother Goose. Ill. by Rosemary Wells. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

The procession of best-loved characters from familiar nursery rhymes and other colorful, delightful folk fill the pages of this captivating volume. The inventiveness and vitality of the illustrations add a literary zest to the more than 55 nursery rhymes. This is joy for the young listener-viewer and even more joy for the reader! Elegant luxury!

O'Brien, John (1999). Poof! Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

When two lazy wizards resort to all sorts of tricks in order to get out of doing simple chores around the house, the work of their wands solve the problems. When they continue, the reader wonders about an ending -- John O'Brien gives the solution with ease and humor.

Good for discussion about doing routine or "boring" tasks in daily activities.

O'Brien, Patrick. (1999). Gigantic: How big were the dinosaurs? New York: Henry Holt.

O'Brien explains the names of 14 dinosaurs from Stegosaurus to Compsognathus and describes their physical characteristics, size and probable behavior. The author's note adds an interesting detail: the origin of the word dinosaur, with, from Greek, deinos, meaning terrible, and sauros meaning lizard.

Dinosaurs, O'Brien explains were reptiles, not lizards as scientists have since discovered.

With the variety of dinosaur volumes available, this is another with unique features for a wide range of readers' interests.

O'Keefe, Susan Heyboer. (1999). Angel prayers: Prayers for all children. Ill. by Sofia Suzan. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

This book of prayers written for children of all faiths is a collection for young children. Each prayer for morning, evening and special occasions invokes the intercession of an angel, as a messenger of love. Folk-art illustrations are attractive and for the young listener/reader. The book however, is appropriate as selected by the adult within personal and community parameters of choice.

Parr, Todd. (1999). This is my hair. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

Parr's timely and timeless themes offer cogent points of departure for active and revealing personal responses of students across a wide age range. This volume on "hair" can well be replicated by a creative -- and honest -- teenager who cites "older" situations.

Delightful examples with Parr's bold, expressive illustrations, contribute to this "up-beat" volume. One's hair, the author recognizes well, suggests a wide range of associations: culture, styles, status.

Parr, Todd. (1999). Things that make you feel good, things that make you feel bad. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

In Parr's familiar pattern of contrast, his bold illustrations depict somewhat exaggerated situations to emphasize the opposite feelings. Yet, the examples are extremes which elicit responses at any age: i.e. hot chocolate with marshmallows, worm stew, tooth fairy/tooth aches.

Parr, Todd. (1999). The okay book. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co.

With bold, colorful and whimsical illustrations, Todd Parr selectively offers familiar examples of questionable situations and states with "authority" of authorship, "It's okay." He implicitly suggests, "Don't worry about what someone else thinks -- or says -- about what you have or do i.e. It's okay to have freckles -- to sing loud -- to dream big" ... This with other Parr books, begs replications by students of all ages -- in creative writing -- dramatic play -- parallel book production.

Perrault, Charles. (1999). Cinderella. Illustrations by Lock Koopnas. (Transl.) Anthea Bell. New York: North-South Books.

The most popular fairy tale, first appeared in 1697, is newly translated from the French is a graceful version for today's children. The timeless story of virtue rewarded is illustrated in pastel drawings which invite a reader's attention and interpretation.

Pfister, Marcus. (1999). Hopper's Easter surprise. Illustrations by Kathrin Siegenthaler. New York: North-South Books.

The reassuring tale of Hopper who wants to be just like the Easter Bunny is now in a cuddly board-book edition. This is an appealing selection for young readers to "read to" young listeners and "viewers" as readers.

Piers, Helen. (1999). Who's in my bed? Illustrations by Dave Saunders. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children's Books.

This "movable" book grasps the listener's attention and the reader's interest as a primary level independent text. The donkey tries to find out why the various animals on the farm are not sleeping in their proper places and discovers that it is his fault. Lifting the flaps to respond to text adds to the appeal. Everyone get to bed, in the right places and the closure is gratifying. Bold, colorful illustrations define the text vividly.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. (October). Seven candles for Kwanzaa. Illustrations by Brian Pinkney. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

This spirited introduction to Kwanzaa explains the meaning of the week-long African-American holiday and the special way each day is celebrated. The fact filled text is simple and straightforward, and pronunciation guides are provided for the Swahili words sprinkled throughout.

Pinkwater, Daniel. (1999). Ice-cream Larry. Illustrations by Jill Pinkwater. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This is the 4th Larry book and more of the same humor with the affable polar bear. This time, Larry is venturing beyond hotel limits and gets housed in a freezer full of ice-cream. After eating an eighth of a ton of ice-cream, Larry's words "I do not feel sick" resound over the world. Larry Bars are famous and Larry is a celebrity.

Larry "the entrepreneur" became famous while earning Larry Bars each day and owning his own freezer.

The "sense of business" here qualifies the book for a wide audience.

Potter, Beatrix. (1999). The tale of Peter Rabbit: A story board book. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

This generously sized book tells the tale of naughty Peter Rabbit's adventures in Mr. McGregor's garden. Young children will be enchanted by the simple text and beautiful illustrations, which bring a classic story vibrantly to life. The board book format is sturdy and accessible, perfect for young readers, but adults will enjoy it too for bed time read-aloud.

Beatrix Potter maintains her role as author to young readers and "mentor" to today's writer of literature for young people.

Potter, Beatrix and Colin Twinn. (Ill.) (1999). The original Peter Rabbit storybook playset. New York: Penguin Putnam, Frederick Warne Marketing.

The Storybook playset is a further extension of the world of Peter Rabbit. It provides stage sets, characters and a sample play with helpful hints. The generously illustrated, sturdy folder opens to a 16 page book with the sample play and ideas for staging this and other plays The free-standing cardboard character pieces and the stage are colorful and bright, cleverly designed and invites the wide dimensions of imaginations. Good for beginning dramatists, writers and producers.

Potter, Beatrix. (1999). Peter rabbit's counting book. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Young children will have fun learning the numbers with Peter Rabbit and his friends. The book features a die-cut design and ten colorful counting beads that show through on each page. The board book design and beads are completely child-safe and sturdy for long life and lots of learning.

This edition of Peter Rabbit as a counting book is one we wish Beatrix Potter could enjoy. Familiar text and characters are used to elicit the learning concepts of counting as initial experience with numbers.

Potter, Beatrix (Ill.). (1999). Peter Rabbit's Touch and Feel Book. New York: Penguin Putnam.

Beatrix Potter would delight in this F. Warne & Co. adventure with nine different textures for young readers to explore as they search with Peter for his missing handkerchief in Mr. McGregor's garden. Readers can stroke the soft rabbit fur, touch scaly fish and feel fluffy duckling as Peter meets friends on his search. The inclusion of the sticky honey is a publisher's achievement!

Rauchwerger, Lisa (1999). Chocolate chip challah: And other twists on the Jewish holiday table. An interactive family cookbook. New York: Vahc Press.

Artist-author Lisa Rauchwerger has produced one of the most attractive, useful and informative cookbooks for cooking, reading and learning. The foods are ordered according to Jewish festivals, anecdotal headnotes are humorous, easy-to use format (which reinforce reading/vocabulary skills, activity pages which complement journal activity) and attractive illustrations, contribute to a delightful text which can be a fine resource in the cultural diversity component of a curriculum across the grades. Special reading features include following directions and the highlighted verbs provide purposeful use of text itself.

Ripken, Cal, Jr. and Mike Bryan. (1999). Illustrations by Stan Silver. Cal Ripken, Jr.: Play ball! New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

What is it like to be a major league ball player? Cal Ripken, Jr. plays third base for the Baltimore Orioles. In this autobiography for beginning readers, he talks about growing up in a baseball family, and about his love for the game. Here is Cal's story, with over 30 action-packed photographs and illustrations. Short sentences, important visual clues, and a lively text encourage young sports fans to become excited about reading.

Breaking the record for playing the most consecutive games -- 2,632 -- Cal explains his goal to play his best in every game.

The format of photos and personal, succinct writing, make this a choice reading for a wide-range of readers.

Rochman, Hazel and Darlene Z. McCampbell. (1999). Bearing witness: Stories of the holocaust. A selection of readings. New York: Orchard.

This thoughtfully selected compilation of stories written by distinctive writers represents an introduction to the tragedy of the period of history and, as well, an introduction to the writers works.

The collection is an award-winning volume for young adults. The varied approaches to the central theme adds reading appeal to the young reader.

Rochman, Hazel and Dariene Z. McCampbell (Ed.). (1999). Bearing witness: Stories of the Holocaust. New York: Orchard Books. Paperback edition.

This volume offers a multifaceted view of the Holocaust, from a child's bewilderment at having to wear a star and later to go into hiding, to the agony of the camps themselves! Stories include those by Elie Wiesel, Hane Richter, Primo Levi, Cynthia Ozick, Frank O'Connor.

An annotated bibliography provides references for the selections from which stories are excerpted

Roseman, Kenneth (1999). Until the Messiah comes. New York: Vahc Press.

The author addresses the reader directly, explaining the historical context about the people and events of Russian history between 1881 and 1918. The true events and people who might have been the reader's ancestors are presented in situations of choices and decisions. The reader makes the choices to move the story ahead. Choices depend upon values, and the reader is invited to see how choices determine outcome. This volume is part of the do-it-yourself adventure series. An extensive glossary includes the names and vocabulary given in bold print in the text. This is a high-interest selection for multi-cultural history, or pure adventure for middle-grade readers.

Ruepp, Krista. (1999). Horses in the fog. Illustrations by Olrike Heyne. New York: North-South Books.

This heavily illustrated book of short exciting chapters about two girls and their horsey includes a setting of a stormy beach landscape and a book of fog to contribute to the adventurous high-interest chapter book.

An adventure book with female characters is especially appealing.

Sampson, Michael. (1999). The football that won. Ill. by Ted Rand. New York: Henry Holt & Co. First Owlet edition.

The Super Bowl football game is told in the same cumulative pattern as "this is the house that Jack built." The familiar cadence makes it a fine read-aloud for young children.

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Scheffler, Ursel. (1999). Grandpa's amazing computer. Illustrations by Ruth Scholte van Mast. (Transl.) Rosemary Lanning. New York: North-South Books.

From the current scene of Ollie who knows a lot about computers, the author creates a unique analogy: Ollie visits his grandfather who introduces him to the concept of seeds -- bulbs -- and pits as computers, timed as programmed to produce plants with their distinctive parts. Ollie is delighted and proceeds to plant his own "computer" for sunflowers.

This easy-to-read book for primary grades is a fine story to integrate with science.

Scheidl, Gerda Marie. (1999). Tommy's new sister. Illustrations by Christa Unzner. Translated by J. Alison James. New York: North-South Books.

How Tommy finally comes to terms with his new sister Wendy is a warm and funny family story that will reassure other displaced and disgruntled children. Tommy has been happy with his best friend Muffin, the dog, until the arrival of Wendy who seemed to be occupying all his parents' time. Detailed, pastel illustrations include Tommy with his cellular phone speaking to his grandma!

Schluk, Eleanor. (1999). Navajo wedding day: A Diné marriage ceremony. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This enchanting book has appeal on several levels -- as lyrical text, soft-tone, clear illustrations and as an exemplary view of the life-cycle event in Navajo culture.

As a read-to or independent reading, the author illustrator presents descriptive text in experienced voice, which unfolds with ease and vivid use of language.

The procedural ritual invites comparison with other cultures thus serving as a comprehensible focus in multicultural curriculum.

Schick, Eleanor. (2000). Mama. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This poignant portrayal of death is simply presented, with direct and touching narration that conveys both hard truths and tender reassurances. Watercolor paintings capture bittersweet moments that a mother and her young daughter share as they deal with the inevitable. This is a book that defies age placement. It's easy to read, expressive of even adult feelings, uncluttered in thoughts, a most vivid expression of loss. A reader in reflection, would assume the author was speaking from experience to be "on target."

Schubert, Uilli. (1999). Harry's got a girlfriend! Illustrations by Wolfgang Slawski. New York: North-South Books.

Harry is taunted by his friends when he's the only boy in his class who is invited to Michelle's birthday party. This easy-to-read chapter book is a friendly tale of a boy's experience with a "social" situation. The resolution to his problem includes the role of his understanding father and the reader enjoys a happy ending.

Schwartz, Henry (1998). How I captured a dinosaur. Pictures by Amy Schwartz. New York: Orchard Books.

Liz, who is fascinated by dinosaurs, finds a living Albertosaurus on a camping trip and brings it home to live with her. How Albert joined the family and went to school with Liz is a delightful reading experience. For younger "listeners" it is a joy for the storyteller.

Schwartz, Henry. (1998). How I captured a dinosaur. Pictures by Amy Schwartz. New York: Orchard.

Albertosaurus, the discovery of young Liz while on a camping trip to Baja, becomes part of her family, home and school. The delightful humor of the incongruous situation through Liz's creation of Albert's backyard place and his visit to school, is a refreshing interlude in the dinosaur literature. Albert is endearing in action and illustration.

Shelley, Mary, Johanna M. Smith (Ed.) (1992). Frankenstein. Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press.

This edited text includes the complete authoritative text with biographical and historical contexts, critical history, and essays from five contemporary critical perspectives. A glossary of critical and theoretical terms complement the text and essays. This is a new edition of the 1831 text in the series on contemporary criticism.

Siomades, Lorianne (1999). Kangaroo and cricket. Ill. by the author. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

A kangaroo and a cricket seem to have nothing in common until you consider that they both can jump .The octopus and bat both like to hide in the dark! The succession of unlikely pairs reveal they have something to share -- what they do or where they live. This book celebrates our similarities to bring children a bit closer -- and indeed to extend to discussion at succeeding age levels.

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Smith, Roland, (1999). Sea otter rescue. The aftermath of an oil spill. Updated for the 10th anniversary of the oil spill. New York: Penguin, Putnam, Inc.

When the Exxon Valdez struck the racks in Prince William Sound, Alaska, nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil spilled into the water. The result was an oil slick which threatened all of the area's wildlife, especially the sea otter. This is the story of the animal rescue experts who went to Alaska to lend a hand. The photos are captivating in their authenticity and appeal. This is an informative and appealing volume. Definition of terms included. This is not for young readers only!

Sonenklar, Carol. (1999). Robots rising. Ill. by John Kaufman. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

This intriguing book of under 100 pages including a glossary, is filled with detailed photos and illustrations, and introduces young (and not so young) readers to a new generation of robots. The robotic creations with given names are seen in their identifying talks from defusing bombs to performing surgery. The creations are seen as changing the way we live and helping us learn more about our world.

Souhanni, Jessica. (2000). No dinner! The story of the old woman and the pumpkin. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

This vibrant retelling of a traditional story told throughout southern Asia is brilliant in the colors of India. How a frail old woman can cross the forest of fierce animals to visit her granddaughter on the other side is the challenge of the tale. The woman is brave and sharp-willed and the granddaughter's clever plan baffles the animals and crosses the forest. This is a fine example of a "tale" for multicultural reading--and a good model for creative writing.

Spooner, J.B. (1998). The little black dog Buccaneer. Illustrations by Terre Lamb Seeley. New York: Arcade.

Here is a story of a black dog on the island of Martha's Vineyard that was adopted by Capt. Bob Douglas, skipper of the beautiful topsail schooner Shenandoah. She became a famous sea dog in New England history and the profile is a familiar emblem.

This is a second Black Dog Book with a tale of treasure hunting. Her curiosity and spirit of adventure are captivating and each "trophy find" keeps a lively pace in the reading/telling. Good for a wide-range of readers for varied interest/reading levels.

Steltzer, Ulli (1995). Building an igloo. Text and photographs by author. New York: Henry Holt & Co. First U.S. edition.

With minimal text and clear, vivid photos, the author-photographer describes the winter season in the Northern Arctic and the procedure of building an igloo, the house of snow The story is told through the recall of the childhood experience of Tookillku, who now teaches his sons the skill of building an igloo. This is a dramatic and informative text, worthy of "reference" classification for use across levels.

Sweet, Melissa (Ill.) (1999). On Christmas day in the morning: A traditional carol. Foreword by John Langstaff. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

This old midwinter song is animated with a merry cast of animal farmers. John Langstaff explains the story behind the card: farmers celebrated planting time with dancing and singing to help push the plants up out of the earth. Melissa Sweet's illustration depict the animals as farmers (and farmers in costume). The English folk song invites the reader to make up verses and supply action in singing the little tune. The music is included as well as the symbols and images associated with the Christmas season. This book is a resource for classrooms celebrating seasonal holidays and customs.

Swinburne, Stephen. (1999). Coyote: North America's dog. Photos by the author. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Author, naturalist and farmer, park ranger, describes in detail, how the coyote has managed to survive in big cities as well as wilderness, deserts, and arctic regions. The reader is drawn into the secretive world of the coyote with thought-provoking text and photos which depict the coyote's habits and behavior. Native American legends are quoted and retold with the coyote as a vivid figure of indomitable endurance. Coyote is a non-fiction gem for the young reader, which offers information through the levels -- good teacher reference.

Swinburne, Stephen R. (1999). Unbeatable beaks. Ill. by Joan Paley. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

A variety of distinctive bird beaks of all shapes, sizes and colors are presented in a lyrical, chant-along text and stunning, colorful paper collage illustrations. The birds' amazing abilities to do things with their beaks, and the size and shape determine their individual ability to, i.e., crack a shell or turn an egg. This informative text should encourage children (and adults) to look more closely at birds in their environment.

Taylor, Mildred D. (September). The well. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

Newberry Medal winner Mildred D. Taylor paints a picture of racial tensions in the rural south for an earlier generation of the Logan family, first introduced in Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

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Tudor, Tasha. (1999). The Lord is my shepherd. New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

The most cherished of psalms is interpreted here by one of America's most beloved illustrators. "The pastoral scenes, liberally scattered with rabbits, turtles, chipmunks and dogs, provide a serene backdrop for a book that children and adults will enjoy together." -- Booklist.

The King James version of the most famous Psalm is presented through gentle watercolors, illustrating the familiar text.

Tasha Tudor's gifts are capsulated in this edition.

Turner, Glennette Tilley. (1999). Follow in their footsteps: Biographies of ten outstanding African Americans.

From Alex Haley to Malcolm X to less well-known role models, these ten outstanding African-Americans made lasting contributions in fields ranging from politics to art, business and more. Their inspiring biographies are accompanied by brief skits highlighting the obstacles they overcame and the decisions they made.

Major historical figures as well as lesser-known heroes who possessed the determination and courage to reach for their goals are presented through short skits for readers to act out, highlight the obstacles these men and women overcame and the decisions they made. The reader is invited to be in their shoes and make decisions, choosing footsteps.

An added feature: readers can select a hero and read a chapter independently; an appealing note for the reluctant reader -- or one involved in a research project of a biography.

Waldman, Neil (1999). The starry night. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

This journey of the imagination, tells of Vincent Van Gogh and a young boy Bernard, who walk the streets of New york, with the artist pausing to paint pictures along the way. The familiar New York landmarks are through Neil Waldman, the author/illustrator, created in Van Gogh style. The picture book for all ages is the reflection of the author's passionate admiration of Van Gogh since his boyhood days.

Wallace, Nancy Elizabeth (1999). Rabbit's bedtime. Ill. by the author. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

"What was good about today?" begins this lyrical invitation to reflect on a day well spent. There is a satisfying balance of creating, sharing, thinking and learning that sustains every child. Nancy Wallace has created a heartfelt and inspiring poem to daily joy that will enrich each reader and listener. This is a warm and timeless book that speaks to basic needs -- and speaks well.

Watts, Bernadette. (1999). Harvey Hare, postman extraordinaire. New York: North South Books.

Watts captures the moods of the seasons and provides the right measure of story interest in which hard work is rewarded. Elegant illustrations add to the kit.

Wechsler, Doug. (1999). Bizarre birds. Photos by the author. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.

Superb full-color photographs of extraordinary, brilliant and remarkable birds dominate the new picture book and highlight the tremendous extremes of bird behavior. The bird lore ranges from the bird that doesn't fly to the only bird that can fly backwards. The colors are dazzling. This is a book published for young readers, (8-12) which serves the adult with accurate, accessible information.

Weninger, Brigitte, Eve Tharlet. (1999). Where have you gone, Davy? What have you done, Davy? New York: North-South Books.

1.This endearing little bunny with wonderful facial expressions and body language tells the story as effectively as text. Large size makes this an appealing choice for group sharing.

2.Smallest Davy learns to "fix" things he broke.

Williams, Margery. (1999). The velveteen rabbit. Illustrations by Michael Hague. New York: Henry Holt (first paperback edition of 1983 edition).

This most recent edition of the classic story of the boy who loves his velveteen rabbit is sensitively illustrated by Hague, creating a gentle edition in the new paperback publication ... The "What is real?" question/answer between nursery animals is a question for all ages!

Winter, Jeanette. (1999). Sebastian: A book about Bach. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.

How Johana Sebastian Bach survived the sorrows of his childhood and composed the music the world has come to love is the subject of this beautifully illustrated text.

Winter has provided an enriching experience for the young reader.

Wulffson, Don L. (1999). The kid who invented the popsicle, and other extraordinary stories behind everyday things. New York: Puffin Books.

A total of 114 brief, factual stories about how various familiar things were invented covers animal crackers to the zipper. Several were born of invention-by accident.

This is an entertaining volume of interesting trivia; excellent for challenging the attention of a reader.

Young, Jay (1999). The art of science: A pop-up adventure in art. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge Press.

This ultimate pop-up book explores the many and often surprising ways in which science has influenced and inspired artists. It encompasses information, art objects, and amazing pop-up "games"-- including wave sculpture, magnetic pendulum, camera, stereoscope, electronic maze, and a 32-page companion book. Paintings and sculptures of more than 40 artists further enhance this volume. (Ed. note--not for children under 8). The age range for this text is unlimited and may be are a source to teachers who are seeking ways to explain the art phenomenon as science curriculum.

[Note: Literature for the younger reader, in format and content offers models for writing to the more advanced reader. Informational books continue as resources across grade levels for students and teachers.] 7065 3/00

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